Background

Ethiopia currently hosts the largest number of refugees in Africa. As of April 2016, the country hosts 732,700 refugees from neighboring countries including Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and South Sudan, who have taken shelter in various border regions of Tigray, Afar, Benshangul-Gumuz, Somali and Gambela region.

270,000 refugees, which is almost 40% of the total refugee numbers that have taken shelter in the country, are currently in Gambela region. Most of the refugees fall within the 5-39 age group and include mainly women and children, who account for approximately 56.5% of the total refugee group.

Current Scenario

Ethiopia is currently reeling under severe drought with the impact of El-Nino. Approximately 83% of the refugees live in priority 1 and 2 drought hotspot woredas of the country. The current high influx has not only added to the existing population number in these areas but has also created a major impact on the lives and livelihoods of the host community where the service sectors and infrastructures are already limited. In Gambela region, the 270,000 refugee figure is almost on par with the 337,500 host community population.

Objectives

The proposed project builds on UNDP’s past and current interventions around disaster risk management and livelihood recovery. The new project seeks to enhance the livelihoods of host communities in the Gambela region who have been affected by refugee influx and whose lives and livelihoods has been further exacerbated by the severe drought.

Delay in responding to the current unfolding situation could have a high negative impact on the livelihoods of the community and may also affect the peaceful co-existence of the refugees and host communities in a region where natural resources and livelihood options are already stressed.

Strategies

The project targets four woredas, which host the highest number refugee influx into the region.

The project will support both the host and refugee communities through an integrated approach that enhances livelihoods through rolling out and strengthening various income generation activities, enhancing natural resources management and rehabilitating community infrastructures.
Description of project outputs and activities:

**Output I: Livelihoods supported through various income generation activities, management of natural resources and rehabilitation of community infrastructures:**

**Activities:**
- Income generation activities rolled out for 840 community members, particularly targeting women, through the formation of 28 community groups that will be supported to work on grind mills, fishery, poultry and livestock;
- Community based livelihood restoration for 24,500 individuals targeting 4,500 households will focus on crop and vegetable production as well as rolling out cash for work and animal restocking for activities undertaken by the community in the areas of rangeland management, community pond rehabilitation, watershed management, community forestry;
- Training and capacity development of community groups on maintenance and management of income generation activities and community assets;

**Output II: Improved peaceful co-existence and co-habitation of host and refugee communities:**

**Activities:**
- Undertake a regional level conflict analysis and identification of peace building mechanisms;
- Build and strengthen community peace building structures including local level early warning and joint peace keeping volunteers;
- Organize nine peace dialogues at woreda levels to promote inter-ethnic co-habitation and training on conflict prevention and peace building for religious and traditional leaders as well as woreda and kebeles officials;

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Output II: Capacity of local institutions strengthened

**Activities:**
- Establish and strengthen project coordination mechanisms at various levels
- Strengthen regional policies, strategies and programmes to enhance resilience building efforts and peaceful co-existence of host community and refugee groups.
- Document results in order to replicate best practices

**Management Arrangements:**
The proposed project forms part of UNDP’s Disaster Risk Management and Livelihood Recovery programme which is implemented by the Climate Resilient and Green Growth Unit.

The project will be implemented using the National Implementation Modality (NIM). The National DRM Commission (NDRMC) will be the implementing partner at Federal level while the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC) will be overseeing the overall financial management process. The Disaster Prevention and Food Security Agency (DPFSA) in Gambela will be implementing the project at regional level with close supervision of Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation (BoFEC).

The project will also be implemented in close collaboration with the bureau of agriculture and natural resources, the bureau of livestock and fisheries, the bureau of peace and justice, the police and other line departments at regional level. Regular coordination will also be done with UNHCR, WFP, FAO, ILO and IOM as well as other development partners to complement the work of each agency throughout the project implementation process.